

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229889 TOSEC 270258

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NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM MCMANAWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), OGEN

SUBJECT: FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

1. GELB STORY. STATEMENT WAS POSTED IN S/PRS WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATION PER OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION. END OF PARAGRAPH TWO WAS AMENDED TO READ "THE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY AFTER EACH MEETING WERE SENT AS WELL TO THE PARTICIPANTS, SOME OF WHOM WERE, IN FACT, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS." IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THE BINDER PIECE APPEARED IN THE TIMES ON FEBRUARY 20 SHORTLY AFTER THE PITTSBURGH SESSION; THE NEXT FOUR SESSIONS WERE ALL HELD IN APRIL. MEDIA COVERAGE AT THE TIME WAS MODERATE BUT I BELIEVE THERE WAS AT LEAST SOME PRESS COVERAGE OF TH SESSIONS IN EACH OF THE FIVE CITIES.

2. GEORGE GEDDA (AP) HAS A STORY ON THE WIRES, FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS. IT IS ALSO BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE PARTY BY S/PRS. S/PRS REPORTS THAT INTEREST IN THE GELB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 229889 TOSEC 270258

STORY APPEARS ONLY MODERATE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF AP STORY: AN INFORMAL STATE DEPARTMENT INQUIRY ABOUT AMERICAN ATTITUDES HAS DISCLOSED WIDESPREAD PUZZLEMENT ABOUT THE BASIS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, AND A YEARNING FOR A MORE IDEALISTIC APPROACH TOWARD LESS FORTUNATE COUNTRIES. THE SURVEY, MADE AT THE REQUEST OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, WAS BASED ON FIVE "TOWN MEETINGS" AROUND THE COUNTRY EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE PUBLIC IN EACH LOCALE WAS INVITED TO DISCUSS WITH TOP STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SUCH ISSUES AS AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE ROLE OF VALUES IN FOREIGN POLICY.

ONE PREVALENT THEME WAS THAT DESPITE 112 NEWS CONFERENCES AND SCORES OF APPEARANCES BEFORE CONGRESS AND AROUND THE COUNTRY, KISSINGER OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF HIS POLICY GOALS.

AFTER A VISIT TO PITTSBURGH, THE FIRST OF THE FIVE CITIES ON THE LIST, THE KISSINGER AIDES REPORTED THAT "THE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE HAS NOT COME TO GRIPS WITH A FAIRLY SERIOUS COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM."

THEY SAID THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM THE COMPLEXITY AND AMBIGUITY OF MODERN-DAY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

IN PITTSBURGH, THEY SAID, "MANY SEE US ACTING IN SEEMING CONTRADICTORY WAYS, BOLSTERING THE SOVIET ECONOMY BY SELLING WHEAT AND TECHNOLOGY EVEN AS WE PROTEST AND OPPOSE THE SOVIET ROLE IN ANGOLA.

SINCE WE APPEAR TO PITTSBURGHERS TO BE ACTING AT CROSS PURPOSES, THERE IS BEWILDERMENT AS TO WHAT THE COUNTRY STANDS FOR."

THE APPARENT AMBIGUITY IN OFFICIAL POLICY ALSO WAS REFLECTED IN ATTITUDES SURVEYED AT A TOWN MEETING IN MINNEAPOLIS WHERE 61 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS TO A POLL AGREE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 229889 TOSEC 270258

THAT "WE CANNOT TRUST THE RUSSIANS." BUT ONLY 19 PERCENT FAVORED AN OUTRIGHT BAN ON TRADE WITH THE SOVIETS.

IN ADDITION TO PITTSBURGH AND MINNEAPOLIS, TOWN MEETINGS WERE HELD IN PORTLAND, ORE.; SAN FRANCISCO AND MILWAUKEE. IN EACH CITY, PARTICIPANTS FELT A MORE IDEALISTIC APPROACH TOWARD POLICY IS WARRANTED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN "TOWN MEETING" POLLS TAKEN IN SAN FRANCISCO AND PORTLAND, THE RESPONDENT

AGREED THAT "STOPPING WORLD HUNGER" DESERVES A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN "STOPPING THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM." END TE

4. MEDIA TREATMENT OF HIJACKING.

-- AS I INDICATED TO YOU ON THE PHONE I BELIEVE WE HAVE THIS ONE UNDER CONTROL. BOTH THE FBI AND FAA ARE ON BOARD WITH OUR LINE AND SEEM DETERMINED TO HOLD TO IT. WE HAD NO REPEAT NO QUESTION ON THIS SUBJECT AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. IN ADDITION BRADSHAW COMMENTED TO BROWN THAT HIS STORY, WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE 16 OF TODAY'S STAR, WAS CUT IN HALF BY EDITORS AND HE THOUGHT STORY IS NOW DEAD. (HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHOSE CHAIN WE PULLED IN FAA). STORY BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

-- MCLUCAS IS GREAT. BELIEVE THE FAA PRESS OFFICE'S BELL IS STILL RINGING.

-- RE FBI CONSULTATION, WE HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED THE FBI DID NOT REPEAT NOT CONSULT IN NEW YORK OR ANYWHERE ELSE.

5. FY 78 BUDGET

-- SIGNED THE FY 78 BUDGET OVER TO OMB.

6. PEARSON PROGRAM

-- APPROVED A PEARSON PROGRAM POSITION IN THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, CALIFORNIA.

7. OTHER

-- TOO BORING TO REPORT.
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PAGE 04 STATE 229889 TOSEC 270258

8. CHEERS. HABIB

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